



# DenverDA

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March 4, 2013

**RE: HB13-1217 - parole eligibility for vehicular homicide**

I cannot attend today's hearing regarding House Bill 1217, but I want my support for this legislation to be part of the record.

We have had the benefit of years of public education about the dangers of drunk driving but there are still those who choose to drink and drive, causing devastating consequences for innocent victims.

These perpetrators should be held to the same level of accountability as anyone else who has made the choice to use a deadly weapon – a car – to commit a crime. They should not benefit from a system that offers "good time" or other means to reduce a sentence simply because their weapon is a vehicle.

The victims of these senseless crimes should have the same rights as other victims – to know that a sentence to the Department of Corrections for killing someone will be consistent with equally impactful crimes of violence.

Sincerely,

A large, stylized handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read "Mitch Morrissey". The signature is written over the printed name and title.

Mitch Morrissey  
Denver District Attorney